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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 04/02/2008	Accident number: 549
Accident time: 11:40	Accident Date: 10/12/2007
Where it occurred: MF0175, Qalai Gulay Village, Bagram District of Parwan Province	Country: Afghanistan
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)
Class: Other	Date of main report: 22nd January 2008
ID original source: Ops/14/01-01	Name of source: UNMACA
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: PMN AP blast	Ground condition: Not recorded
Date record created:	Date last modified: 04/02/2008
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system: Not made available	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:	Map north:
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)

Accident report

A letter about this accident was made available in January 2008 as an image file. Its conversion to a text file for editing means that some of the formatting has been lost. The substance of the letter is reproduced below, edited for anonymity. The original file is held on record. Text in [] is editorial. This record will be extended if the full accident report is made available later.

Lessons learned letter

File Ops/14/01-01 REF: 08.01.026

To: See distribution list

From: Chief of Operations, UNMACA, Kabul

Date: 22nd January 2008

Subject: Investigation report & Lessons learned of OMAR demining Accident

Attached please find the Investigation report and Lessons learned from Demining Accident, which occurred to OMAR DT-04 on 10 December 2007 at Qalai Gulay village, Bagram District of Parwan Province.

Distribution list: Complete investigation report to [Demining group involved]

Lessons learned to: [All demining groups operating in-country].

LESSONS LEARNED SUMMARY

OF DEMINING ACCIDENT INVOLVING OMAR DT# 04 ON 10 DECEMBER 2007

INTRODUCTION:

An investigation team was convened by Area Manager of AMAC Centre (Kabul) to investigate the demining accident invoking Besmeilah a deminer from OMAR DT # 04. The accident occurred at 11:40 hours on 10 December 2007 at task # AF/0308/01624/MF0175 located in Gala Gulay Village, Bagram District of Parwan Province.

SUMMARY:

MF# AF/03081016241MF0175 is part of SHA#2 of IS#1211 which is a belt of AP (PMN& PMN 2) mines planted by Russians to protect Bagram air base from attack of Mujahideen, The area was re-mined by the northern alliance to avoid advancement of the Taliban toward the air base, as they had domination on air base during the period of Taliban.

OMAR DT#4 was tasked to conduct mine clearance operation of the mentioned area.

On 10/12/2007 as the team was busy with normal demining activities, suddenly a dog of the villagers run harshly into the minefield and as the dog reached to 6m distance from a deminer's clearance lane, suddenly an explosion happened to the dog which perished it on the spot. As a result of the explosion [the Victim] deminer who was busy on marking of his cleared lane got slight injuries on his both hands and as he was dressed fully with the PPE, he did not receive any more injuries to other parts of his body.

The injured deminer received first aids in the site from team medic and since his wounds were not serious he was not admit the hospital for more treatment.

CONCLUSIONS:

It is the investigation team's conclusion that the villager's dog entered into the minefield, stepped on a mine and caused it to explode. As the accident happened to a distance of 6m from a deminer's working lane, he got some slight injuries to his hand.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following points are to be considered by all clearance organisations in the MAPA:

- a. Team command group is to make sure all safety precautions are in place to avoid entrance of people and their animals in to the minefield,
- b. Team command group should have liaison with the community, inform them of demining operations and advise them not to allow their children and animals to walk in to the danger area.
- c. The team command group is to be alert about the entrance of animals to the minefield and as they noticed such an event, they are to stop the operation, move the team members to safe area and take appropriate measures until the situation changes.

Victim Report

Victim number: 723	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Frontal apron Long visor	Protection used: Frontal apron, Long visor

Summary of injuries:

minor Hands

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.

Analysis

The activity when this accident is recorded as "Other" because it was recorded as "Marking" in the summary provided. This would normally mean that the deminer was placing painted stones, and would have probably been in a standing position.

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "Unavoidable" because the investigators accepted that a dog had run into the minefield and detonated a mine in front of the deminer. The Secondary cause is lifted as a "Field control inadequacy" because the investigators found fault with the field controllers for not preventing the dog's entry. In fact, mined areas are rarely fenced and are (in my experience) not patrolled to prevent a running animal entering. It is easy to imagine an enthusiastic dog running towards a deminer. But if the dog were really six metres away when it detonated an AP blast mine, it is hard to imagine the deminer suffering any injury.

A PMN (rather than a PMN-2) mine is presumed because it the larger AP mine and an injury at six metres is more credible.

The injury was limited to light injury on the Victim's "hands", which were unprotected by his PPE. This may appear suspicious because the most common accident is during excavation,

and the most common injury is to hands and arms. (In accident reports from this theatre, the word "arm" and the word "hand" are often used interchangeably, so an arm injury may be recorded as a hand injury.) There is some evidence of demining group's seeking to conceal the real cause of accidents, so it is possible that the dog was blamed for an accident that actually occurred during excavation.

This record will be revised if the full accident report is made available later.